

# PressRelease

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **State files complaint against phone companies for failing to submit discount phone deals to state**

**OLYMPIA, Wash.** – State regulators today filed a complaint against 14 phone companies for failing to submit business agreements to state authorities for review.

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) said the companies should have disclosed the terms and conditions of the pacts to the commission. The agreements were between Qwest and 13 other companies who compete for local phone service.

A prehearing conference has been scheduled at 9:30 a.m., Sept. 8 in the second-floor hearing room of the WUTC's headquarters in Olympia. A time schedule for the proceeding will be determined at that time.

In the complaint, the WUTC is asserting the favorable agreements should have been filed with the commission for approval and been made public. They should have been made public so other competing telecommunication companies could decide whether they wanted to offer service under the same terms and conditions.



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Competitive phone companies can lease parts of Qwest's network to serve their customers. The unfiled interconnection deals made between Qwest and its business competitors spell out the details of the wholesale agreement. The agreements must be submitted for approval by the WUTC. The complaint alleges that failure by the phone companies to file the agreements is a violation of state and federal law.

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The 13 business competitors mentioned in the complaint are: Advanced Telecom Group, Inc.; Allegiance Telecom, Inc.; AT&T Corp.; Covad Communications Co.; Electric Lightwave, Inc.; Eschelon Telecom, Inc.; Fairpoint Communications Solutions, Inc; Global Crossing Local Services, Inc.; Integra Telecom, Inc.; MCI WorldCom Inc.; McLeodUSA, Inc.; SBC Telecom, Inc.; and XO Communications, Inc.

The complaint alleges that the confidential agreements began as early as January 1999 and continued through March 2002.

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Of Qwest's 14-state territory, several states have been reviewing these unfiled agreements. Among those are: Minnesota, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Washington.

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